

South Dakota State University

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South Dakota Art Museum Newsletters and Publications

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Winter 1993

### South Dakota Art Museum News, Winter 1992-93

South Dakota Art Museum

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## SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

The American Collection, December 20 - January 24, features the work of 17 artists represented in the Museum's collection—Thomas Hart Benton, Byron Burford, Sidney Chafetz, Marsden Hartley, Jan Kemerling, Rockwell Kent, Georgiana Kettler, Robert Mangold, Al Momaday, Robert Nelson, Brian Paulsen, Stephen Poleskie, Jo Siddens, Calvin Tyndall, Pablita Velarde, Jantje Visscher, and Ulfert Wilke. One of the most stunning works in this selection is "Summer Journey," a 1986 painting by Georgiana Kettler of Minneapolis, given by the Museum Guild. It is from her "Arbor Series," which deals with what she calls "archetypal" images of reality.

Miracles of Mexican Folk Art, January 31 - February 21, includes 24 retablo and 12 ex-voto paintings from Mexico's post-colonial period (1780-1910), assembled over a 15-year period by the Americas Institute of Art, Culture, and History in Seattle. Retablos are small Christian icons, usually depicting saints and used primarily as home shrines. Ex-votos (literally meaning "dedicated gifts") were commissioned in appreciation for miracles performed, prayers answered, or blessings received, and often were displayed in the local church. These small oil on tin works are usually painted in a naive style, which has much to do with their charm. The frames are usually of tin and are sometimes quite elaborate. All printed information for this exhibition is in both English and Spanish.



"Our Lady of Guadalupe," a 19th century retablo, from *Miracles of Mexican Folk art*

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The Duck Stamp Program, February 28 - March 28. America's lush wetlands were once home to enormous flocks of ducks and geese. As swamps and marshes were drained, the number of waterfowl diminished, and, in the 1930s, conservationists banded together to propose federal action. The National Wildlife Refuge System was the result, along with the Federal Duck Stamp Program that finances purchase of wetlands. Every year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sponsors a competition to select the design of the stamp, which depicts some species of native waterfowl in natural surroundings. This exhibition, sponsored by Ducks Unlimited, is a complete collection of Federal Duck Stamps and original prints of the art work on which they are based.



*Georgiana Kettler's "Summer Journey," from The American Collection*



*First stamp in the Duck Stamp Program series*





Judy Petersen and Dan Kemp of the Brookings Summer Arts Festival Committee present a flute made by Bryan Akipa for the Brookings community in memory of his daughter, Emmy, to Joseph Stuart, director of the Museum. Kemp holds a memorial text by Akipa, which reads, "A butterfly lights beside us like a sunbeam, and for a brief moment its glory and beauty belong to our world. But then it flies on again, and though we wish it could have stayed, we feel so lucky to have seen it."



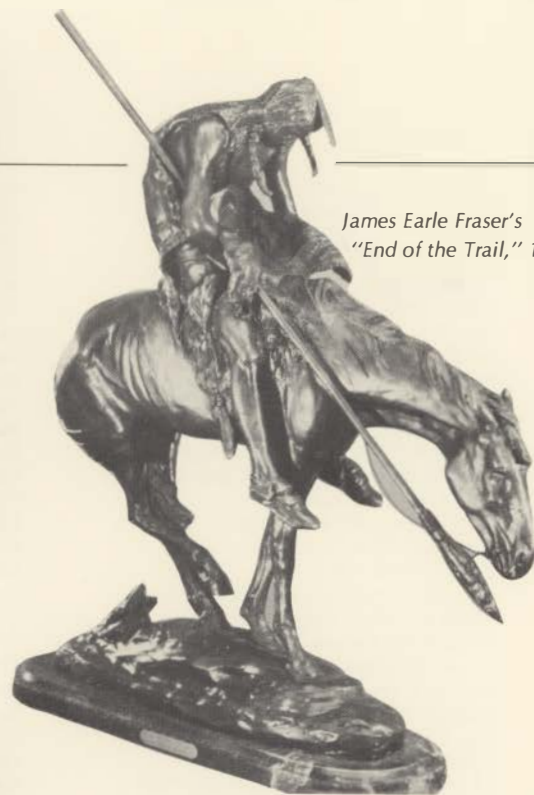
Nellie Voss' "Big Stone Lake," about 1915

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Bryan Crawford Akipa, a Dakota Indian from Sisseton, South Dakota, is well known in the state as a flute maker and performer. He has given a very special flute with a mallard drake design in memory of his daughter, Emmy, who died last year. The flute and a recording of his flute love songs were included in the Museum Guild's recent Art in the Schools Program for Brookings, "Native American Art, Dance, and Music." The flute is now on display in the Museum's Native American Art Gallery.

Five paintings by Nellie Cleveland Voss, a pioneer South Dakota painter,

were given through the estate of her daughter, Ramona Voss. Nellie was born 1871 in Northfield, Minnesota, and came to the Milbank, South Dakota, area in 1880, where her parents homesteaded. She studied at the Eden Park Art Academy in Cincinnati, taught rural school near Milbank for six years, and married Bert Voss in 1898. She maintained a studio in their Milbank home until her death in 1963. The five paintings given to the Museum are landscapes, and three are of her favorite area—Big Stone Lake on the Minnesota-South Dakota border.



James Earle Fraser's  
"End of the Trail," 1894

## MUSEUM SHOP HAS UNIQUE GIFTS

The Museum Shop now has "The American West," a new Fax-Pax educational product from England. The set of 40 picture cards, about the size of a deck of cards, sells for \$6.50. Each card tells something about the American West—the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Oregon Trail, Pony Express, railroads, homesteaders, cattle drives, Indian Wars, etc.—and has a full-color reproduction of an appropriate painting on the reverse. Albert Bierstadt, Henry Farny, Alfred Jacob Miller, Frederic Remington, and South Dakotan Harvey Dunn are among the famous artists represented.

For the shopper with a bit more money—\$375 to be exact—there is the bronze cast of "End of the Trail," one of the most famous sculptures in America. We feature this work because it was created in Mitchell, South Dakota, in 1894 by teenager James Earle Fraser. The sculpture won the young man a scholarship in Paris. His final version of the sculpture—a plaster work in monumental scale—was created for the 1915 Pan-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. It was placed on a bluff overlooking the Pacific, in keeping with Fraser's belief that the American Indian was being forced to the very edge of his homeland by white encroachment.

## MUSEUM DIRECTOR TO RETIRE

Joseph Stuart, director of the Museum since 1971, has announced his intention to retire at the end of June 1993. A committee has been formed to conduct a search for his successor. During Stuart's tenure the Museum became the first South Dakota museum of any kind to be accredited by the American Association of Museums, expanded its collections of South Dakota art, and developed a comprehensive collection of Native American tribal art.



*Joseph Stuart with members of the Museum Guild's Art in the Schools Committee*

## A SPECIAL NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Programs at the Museum this season are supported in part by an \$11,936 General Operating Support Grant from the South Dakota Arts Council, a state agency with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and South Dakota Legislature.

Special exhibitions at the Museum are supported in part this season by BankFirst (Karen and Mert Lund), Brookings Friends of the Arts, Dakota Granite Company of Milbank, First Dakota National Bank of Yankton, and the Larson Foundation of Brookings.

## MUSEUM ART AUCTION BENEFITS ENDOWMENT

The Art Auction at the Museum on October 17th brought \$9,255 in bids and a net of \$6,643, which has been added to the Museum's Acquisition Endowment. That fund now has a balance of \$40,541. Earnings from the endowment are used to purchase art for the Museum collections. Phyllis Bartling and Mary Thompson of Brookings were co-chairs of the auction, Don Andrews and Jocelyn Hanson of Sioux Falls developed the auction list, and members of the Museum Guild assisted. Bob and Jim Peterson of Brookings were the auctioneers, assisted by Helen Peterson.

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